

Message Text

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71

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 NEA-10 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /115 W

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R 141814Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6056

INFO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 1144

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, FR

SUBJECT: U.S. MILITARY TRAINING IN FRANCE

1. USE OF FRENCH ARMY TRAINING AREA NEAR TOULON BY ABOUT 800 U.S. MARINES IN EARLY JANUARY MARKS LARGEST U.S. TRAINING OPERATION IN MAINLAND FRANCE SINCE U.S. TROOPS LEFT FRANCE IN 1966-67. EXCELLENT COOPERATION ON SERVICE-TO-SERVICE BASIS BETWEEN U.S. AND GOF MILITARY CHARACTERIZED EVENT. PRESS COVERAGE WAS STRAIGHTFORWARD, WITH EXCEPTION OF COMMUNIST L'HUMANITE WHICH CONCLUDED PREDICTABLY THAT U.S. TRAINING DEMONSTRATED FRANCE WAS REVERSING THE GAULLIST NATO POLICY OF 1966, AND POSED QUESTION CONCERNING NATURE OF BILATERAL AGREEMENT PERMITTING SUCH TRAINING. IN SAME ARTICLE, L'HUMANITE ALSO ASKED, "HAS THE GOF DECIDED TO TRANSFORM FRANCE'S MEDITERRANEAN REGION INTO A REAR BASE FOR THE EXECUTION OF U.S. PLANS TO INTERVENE AGAINST THE ARAB PEOPLES?" ARTICLE POUCHED EUR/WE.

2. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE FRENCH ARE PREPARED TO REPEAT THIS TYPE OF TRAINING ARRANGMENT, SO LONG AS IT DOES NOT BECOME SUFFICIENTLY FREQUENT OR VISIBLE TO GIVE PCF AMMUNITION TO SUPPORT IDEA THAT TRAINING IS SIMPLY FIG LEAF TO COVER ESTABLISHMENT OF U.S. BASE IN FRANCE. QUAI SOURCE TOLD US THAT GOF HAS NO PROBLEM DEALING WITH CURRENT LEVEL

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OF L'HUMANITE ACCUSATIONS RE U.S. TRAINING IN FRANCE.

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Message Attributes

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